

## Moscow might accept Germany in NATO

MOSCOW (R) — East German Prime Minister Lothar de Maiziere said Sunday the Soviet Union may be prepared to accept North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) membership for a united Germany if the Western alliance made strategic and structural changes. De Maiziere said after meeting President Mikhail Gorbachev that the Kremlin leader indicated he would be prepared to discuss German membership of the NATO once "new structures and strategies are in place." On his first foreign trip since becoming prime minister this month after the March 18 elections, de Maiziere said that he, too, agreed with Gorbachev that a shift towards a more defensive and political status for NATO was necessary. But he made clear that the two sides had not gone into detail on what this would mean in practice, suggesting that the gulf between them was still wide despite next weekend's international talks in Bonn on Germany's military future.

# Jordan Times

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## Arafat in Libya

NICOSIA (R) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat flew to Libya Sunday as part of a tour to canvass support for an emergency Arab summit to discuss the exodus of Soviet Jews to Israel. The Libyan news agency JANA said the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) chief flew to the northwestern city of Sirte, where Libya was marking the 75th anniversary of a battle against Italian occupation troops. Arafat arrived after visiting Somalia and Sudan. In Kharroum, military leader Omar Hassan Al Bashir supported Arafat's call for the summit. Arab League officials said last week that the majority of the league's 22 members were in favour of the summit which the PLO chief had proposed to be held in Iraq next month.

## Turkey seizes pipes bound for Iraq

ISTANBUL (R) — Turkish customs officials said Sunday they had seized two more truckloads of steel pipes they suspected might be components for the Iraqi arms industry. They said two truck-bound trucks were being held at Turkey's Kapikule border with Bulgaria while investigations were underway. Another lorry was seized last week. "The lorries are being held here at the border gate. They are loaded with steel pipes," said a customs official, adding that experts would examine the pipes to see if they had military applications.

## Discovery lands after record mission

EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE (R) — The space shuttle Discovery landed safely Sunday after setting a space record and braving high winds which threatened to delay its touchdown. During its five-day mission, Discovery launched the Hubble space telescope which scientists hope will be able to look back 20 billion years, almost to the beginning of the universe. In order to complete the telescope launch, Discovery's five-person crew took their craft into an orbit 610 kilometres above the Earth's surface, higher than any of the previous 34 shuttle flights and higher than any planned flights.

## Romanians stage anti-regime protests

TISSOARA, Romania (R) — Thousands of angry demonstrators staged anti-government rallies in at least four Romanian towns Sunday to demand the ousting of interim President Ion Iliescu. About 15,000 people in the western city of Timisoara, birthplace of the December uprising which ousted dictator Nicolae Ceausescu, denounced Iliescu and the ruling National Salvation Front (NSF) as neo-communists. Protests have swelled over the past week ahead of the country's first free elections for more than half a century on May 20 in which Iliescu is running for president as the front's candidate.

## Genscher nearly faints during speech

DUESSELDORF (AP) — West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher became faint Sunday and had to break off a speech at a gathering of his political party. Genscher, 65, has a long history of circulatory system and urinary tract problems and once suffered a heart attack. "My dear friends, unfortunately I must stop," said Genscher about 10 minutes into his speech. Three doctors at the gathering rushed to his aid. A few minutes later, Genscher's spokesman said the foreign minister was merely suffering from exhaustion. About 30 minutes later, Genscher returned to the podium as members of the Free Democrat Party gave him a standing ovation.

## IRA claims border bombings

BELFAST (AP) — A bomb exploded at a border customs post Sunday, and security forces tipped to a renewed Irish Republican Army (IRA) offensive were on heightened alert throughout Northern Ireland. The Royal Ulster Constabulary said a bomb caused minor damage to a hut in the customs complex near Newry, County Down, on the border with the Irish Republic.

## Jordan stands ready to seize opportunity for peace

# Crown Prince warns of diminishing peace prospects in Mideast

Unless peace prevails there will be a fanatical war

By Jordan Times Staff Writer

the nation-state, a war of attrition that aims to reduce national entities to their components. (The article appeared in the April 28/29 issue of the newspaper. It is reprinted in full on page 4).

In the article, the Crown Prince said that "Jordan, like other fair-minded Arab states, stands ready to seize the opportunity for peace in a spirit of cooperation and goodwill," and "... believes that for the peace process to succeed, both Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation should offer practical options to their peoples."

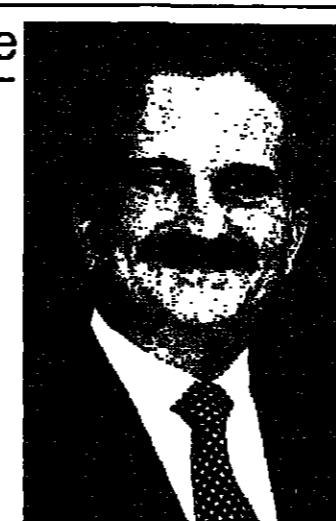
"Jordan is committed to a comprehensive, just and lasting settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict. The most appropriate vehicle for achieving this is an international conference under United

Nations auspices."

"Regrettably, Israel has not joined in the spirit of accommodation," he wrote. "Instead, it has chosen to shift attention from the critical issue of peace — this time, to gather all its resources to welcome a new wave of immigration from the Soviet Union. This immigration provides a powerful case for Israeli expansionists to keep the occupied territories as a home for the new arrivals. The result is a threat to all peace initiatives."

The Crown Prince called on the U.S., the Soviet Union and Europe as well as all parties involved in the Middle East conflict to work in concert to generate momentum for peace.

"Since the Israeli settlements in the occupied territories violate the international order."



international law, the United States and European nations should predicate their subsidisation of the immigration and resettlement of Soviet Jews on Israel's freezing all settlement activity in the occupied territories," the Crown Prince wrote. "They can do much to ameliorate this difficult situation by increasing annual quotas for Soviet Jews to settle in their own countries."

The Crown Prince also renewed the call for an Arab summit "to formulate a peace strategy that would safeguard the legitimate rights of the Palestinians and the security and stability of the Arab regional order."

## Soviet, Syrian leaders assail U.S. policy

# Gorbachev cites Arab rights not just human rights in handling problem linked to Jewish exodus

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer  
with agency dispatches

SOVIET President Mikhail Gorbachev has said that problems caused by Soviet Jewish immigration to Israel must be solved in the context of "the rights of the Arabs and not just of human rights in general."

The Soviet leader was also quoted as voicing concern over Israeli possession of nuclear weapons and attacking American policy as an obstacle to peace in the Middle East.

It was the first formal comment by Gorbachev on Soviet Jewish immigration to Israel and expressed Arab fears that the bulk of the new arrivals could be settled in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. Moscow has resisted Arab calls to ban further Soviet Jewish immigration to Israel, arguing that its international commitments on human rights made it impossible for it to prevent Jews leaving for Israel.

ish emigration from the Soviet Union, TASS reported.

TASS said the Soviet Union wanted closer contacts with Arab states over Israel's "illegal" activities in settling Jewish immigrants in the occupied territories and wanted the United Nations Security Council to take a stand against "the colonisation of these lands."

The news agency said both Gorbachev and Assad condemned American policy as a major obstacle to peace in the Middle East.

In their three hours of talks, Gorbachev and Assad also expressed serious concern over the "problem of the possession of nuclear weapons by Israel."

The two leaders agreed that prospects for solutions to the problems in the Middle East and the holding on an international conference on the Arab-Israeli conflict were held back by the

(Continued on page 4)

## E. Beirut skirmishes continue

BEIRUT (AP) — Rebel General Michel Aoun's troops and militiamen of the right-wing Lebanese Forces militia skirmished in east Beirut, Sunday, but a 33-hour ceasefire between the Christian rebels held in the mountains.

There were no reports of casualties Sunday in the three-month-old power struggle for mastery of the Christian enclave to fallen soldiers officially began.

The blanket curfew was aimed at preventing protests.

The closure came after the bloodiest week of Israeli-Palestinian clashes this year. On Thursday troops killed four Palestinians and wounded 150 in the occupied territories, most of them in the Gaza Strip refugee camp of Jaba.

A large number of red-bereted paratroopers and border police were seen around military cemeteries and Arab neighbourhoods in East Jerusalem. Reporters said the army had also erected roadblocks in the West Bank and prevented Palestinians from entering Israel.

The military said soldiers at the roadblocks were carrying out selective checks to prevent "possible inciters" from entering Israel.

In the West Bank town of Al Bireh, 12 kilometres north of Jerusalem, Zuhair Ijlil, 44, was mortally wounded in the head when masked assailants opened fire at him.

Hundreds of refugees poured into the towns Sunday while the ceasefire held, police reported.

Daress has been deserted by almost all its 12,000 citizens and barely 200 of Kleiat's 20,000 population remain huddled in basements and underground shelters.

Police said the few remaining civilians still in the two resorts took advantage of the truce to leave before an expected resumption of fighting.

The conservative Al Diyar daily, which based in east Beirut, described the truce as "a farce."

"It's like being invited to prepare the dead for burial," it declared in an editorial.

The daily said the truce was declared "so the residents could touch with their own hands the stones of their damaged homes... and see with their own eyes the black smoke" billowing from them.

Kleiat, once famed for its restaurants and night clubs, has been severely damaged in the savage fighting between Aoun's troops and Geagea's militia.

The Lebanese Forces hold the western half of the town while Aoun's men control the northern edges and direct fire into its main square.

Geagea's militiamen also hold a nearby hill that dominates Daraya, which is in territory controlled by Aoun.

The power struggle has triggered the worst fighting between Christian rivals in Lebanon's multi-faceted civil war.

Israel's current political crisis was triggered by Shamir's refusal

# Israeli army keeps Gaza Strip under tight siege

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — The Israeli army kept the Gaza Strip sealed off and confined the 750,000 Palestinian residents to their homes Sunday while the Jewish state observed two holidays.

Sirens wailed and Israelis paused for a minute of silence Saturday night as a memorial day to fallen soldiers officially began.

The army declared the town a closed military area and troops searched for the assailants, the military command said.

Meanwhile, Christian leaders threatened to shut churches and shrines in the Holy land once again if Jewish settlers remain in the Christian quarter of the Old City.

They reopened the sites Saturday after a protest against the April 11 settlement of 150 Jewish settlers in a building complex owned by the Greek Orthodox Church.

"If the situation continues to be critical, we will have to close churches again... and appeal to the international community to pressure Israel to evict the settlers," said Lutfi Laham, the Melchite Catholic Bishop.

The leaders did not say when they might hold more protests.

The controversy interrupted Easter celebrations and triggered demonstrations by angry clerics

and Palestinians, both Christian and Muslim, who complained the Jews held an illegal lease. Greek Patriarch Diodoros I interrupted Easter celebrations to organise demonstrations.

Last week after repeated denials, the Israeli government admitted it had contributed \$1.8 million to the establishment of the settlement, provoking outrage in Israel and abroad.

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"The closure of churches and houses of worship in Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Nazareth and the Galilee was never done, not even in the darkest condition. This shows how serious we are," Hintlian said.

Latin Patriarch Michel Sabbah said on Vatican radio that the church protest aimed to show the world that in Jerusalem "the non-Jewish population is in danger."

"The Palestinian population has been left without any protection," Sabbah said. "And among the Palestinians are also Christians."

Mubarak is expected to hold a day of talks with Assad Wednesday and may spend the night in Syria, the sources said.

The formal breach between Syria and Egypt dates from 1977, when Mubarak's predecessor, Anwar Sadat, opened contacts that led to an Egyptian peace treaty with Israel.

Egypt cut diplomatic ties with Syria in 1977 after Damascus threatened to freeze economic and political links because of Sadat's visit to occupied Jerusalem.

Relations improved after Egypt was readmitted to the Arab League at a summit in Morocco last May. Diplomatic ties were reported in December. Ambassadors took up their posts this month.

Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter said after a recent visit to Damascus that the Syrians were ready for talks on a final Middle East settlement.

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"They also try to push us onto the road they have prepared for us to talk to the PLO," he said.

"We shall never do it."

Hafez Al Assad is expected to explore ways of boosting bilateral ties and expand trade and to discuss the mass emigration of Soviet Jews to Israel. Arab media also predict that Mubarak will seek ways to reconcile Syria with Iraq.

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# Middle East News

## Eritrean rebels report breaking Ethiopian army lines near Asmara

NAIROBI (R) — Ethiopian rebels said they had smashed through government front lines to capture the strategic town of Adi Kayeh, a district headquarters 110 kilometres to the east of Asmara, the capital of northern Eritrea province.

Government forces have been fighting to break out of an enclave around Asmara since the Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF) rebels captured the Red Sea port of Massawa in mid-February and cut off the Soviet-backed government's last overland supply route.

The EPLF said in a broadcast on their clandestine radio that they seized Adi Kayeh, a district headquarters 110 kilometres to the east of Asmara, Wednesday.

On Saturday, a presidential advisory body in Addis Ababa said the EPLF had opened a new front in southern Eritrea with the help of the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF).

The EPLF, which is seeking the independence of Eritrea, a former Italian colony, and the TPLF, which is fighting from its base in Tigray province to establish a broader-based government in Ethiopia, both denied Saturday that TPLF troops had entered Eritrea.

The rebels said they also "wiped out" government troops around Senafe, 10 kilometres south of Adi Kayeh.

## British firm in line for Iran aircraft contract, magazine says

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran is negotiating with a British company, Lucas Aerospace, for a \$400 million contract to overhaul its military and civilian Boeing 747s. Flight International magazine reports.

The London-based weekly said in its latest edition, which will be on newsstands Monday, that the U.S. and British governments were understood to have approved the deal which was expected to be signed soon.

The magazine reported that at one point in the negotiations that began in January an Israeli company was involved.

But it was dropped because Lucas decided it would be "politically disastrous" if the Israeli involvement ever became known.

A copy of the magazine's report was made available to the Associated Press in Cyprus.

The magazine said that linked to the deal, some aviation consul-

tants "have also been seeking a range of military equipment" for Iran.

Flight said these included U.S.-made Sidewinder air-to-air missiles and spare parts for Iran's American-built F-4, F-5 and F-14 jet fighters and C-130 transport aircraft.

But it reported that Lucas Aerospace denied it was involved in providing military equipment or spares for Iran.

The fighters were among some 450 combat jets Iran bought before the 1979 Islamic revolution that toppled the late Shah Mohammad Pahlavi.

Many were grounded or became non-operational during the 1980-88 war with Iraq amid a chronic lack of spares and weapons systems because of a U.S.-led arms embargo.

Flight said the deal with Iran involves overhauling 16 Boeing 747s and their JT9D-7 engines.

Six of the aircraft are Boeing 747s used as military transports by the Iranian Air Force. The rest are operated by Iran Air, the country's flag carrier, which has a fleet of 26 airliners.

Tehran Radio reported last month that the air force's Boeing 747s were being transferred to the civil aviation registry.

Flight said the move was made "in apparent anticipation" that the overhaul deal negotiated by the air force would be signed.

Lucas Aerospace, based at Solihull in the English midlands, is a major contractor for the U.S. and British Defence Departments. It is part of the Lucas Industries Engineering Group.

Flight identified the Lucas project chief as Stewart Clark, a consultant for the company.

"There is a possibility that we might get the job," Flight quoted Clark as saying.

## Iranian official attacked over call for ties with U.S.

NICOSIA (AP) — A recent article in an Iranian newspaper, arguing for direct talks with the United States triggered an angry attack by a radical Iranian paper.

The article, entitled "direct talks," had appeared in Thursday's edition of the Farsi-language evening paper, Ettelaat.

The column by Iranian Vice President Ataollah Mohajerani Saturday argued that Iran has much to gain by agreeing to direct talks with the United States.

But the daily Jomhuri Islami said Saturday that Mohajerani's argument had "stirred a feeling of disgust among the people and the officials," the official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported.

It noted that the late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, who founded the Islamic Republic in 1979 by riding on a wave of anti-American sentiment, had preached against any relations with the United States.

Quoting Khomeini, the paper said that "as long as the United States does not come to its senses, Iran will have no relations with it."

"It is mere simple-mindedness to expect the United States to come to its senses," the paper added.

The Iranian agency, monitored in Cyprus, also said the Islamic Association of Tehran University Students has called for a demonstration Sunday to protest against the article.

The association warned that it will not allow anybody to trifle with the causes of the Islamic revolution," the agency reported.

The Ettelaat article was a bold step by pragmatic Iranian leaders, led by President Hashemi Rafsanjani, to break the taboo of publicly arguing for resumption of ties with Washington.

Rafsanjani has spoken in favour of normalising ties with the West, especially the West European countries. But no high-ranking Iranian official has yet argued that Tehran should re-establish ties with Washington.

The Iranian president also has said repeatedly that Western hostages held by pro-Iranian kidnappers in Lebanon should be freed. Iran is believed to have played a key role in gaining the release of U.S. hostage Robert Polhill a week ago.

Mohajerani noted that the United States, as the most "influential member" of the United Nations Security Council, could pressure Iraq into withdrawing troops from Iranian territory seized in the eight-year Gulf war, and work toward a comprehensive peace.

A U.N.-mediated ceasefire halted the bloody war on Aug. 20, 1988, but talks on troop withdrawal and exchange of prisoners which began five days later have been stalled.

Mohajerani also said that billions of dollars of Tehran's assets, frozen by Washington after Iranian militants stormed the U.S. embassy in Tehran in November 1979 and took 52 Americans hostage, could be released through direct negotiations with Washington.

Washington broke off ties with Iran after the embassy attack and the Iranians have been implacably anti-American since the beginning of their revolution.

Mohajerani added that other gains from direct talks could be the strengthening of the Iranian military with U.S. help and revitalisation of the economy.

## Pope concerned over closure of holy sites

VATICAN CITY (R) — Pope John Paul II said Sunday he was deeply concerned over tensions between Muslims, Jews and Christians in Jerusalem and appealed for a solution which would respect the rights of all involved.

He was addressing pilgrims in St. Peter's Square following the 24-hour closure Friday of Christian holy sites in Israel and the occupied West Bank in protest at a Jewish settlement in the Christian Quarter of the Old City of Jerusalem.

"Let us pray that everyone may have close to their hearts the search for solutions inspired by justice and respect for each other's rights."

He prayed for peace in Jerusalem which he said was a city sacred to three religions.

The Vatican has no diplomatic relations with Israel. It wants Jerusalem to be established as an international city sacred to Christianity, Islam and Judaism.

JORDAN TIMES, MONDAY, APRIL 30, 1990

The Holy Sepulchre, the traditional site of the crucifixion, burial and resurrection of Jesus, is Christianity's holiest shrine.

It is customary to bolted the doors Friday in protest at the settlement of 150 Jews in a church-owned building about 100 metres away.

The Jewish settlement infuriated Christians and Muslims who have protested daily outside the building and clashed with police.

Christian church leaders also closed holy sites in Israel and the occupied West Bank, including the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem and the Church of the Annunciation in Nazareth.



## MIDDLE EAST NEWS BRIEFS

### Bulgaria to restore ties with Israel

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli officials said Sunday that Bulgaria would restore diplomatic relations with Israel this week, the fourth reformist government in East Europe to end a 23-year break in ties.

Among Eastern European states, Hungary, Czechoslovakia and Poland have all resumed relations with Israel since September. The Soviet Union and its former East Bloc satellites, with the exception of Romania, severed ties during the 1967 Middle East war. East Germany, Yugoslavia and Albania have yet to establish links with Israel. But East Germany said last week it wants relations. Foreign Minister Moshe Arens will travel to Bulgaria on Wednesday and sign the formal agreement Thursday, Foreign Ministry spokesman Moti Amichai said. Years of Israeli efforts to restore ties with Moscow have so far produced only an exchange of consular delegations but Israelis are encouraged by the new freedom of emigration for Soviet Jews.

### Iran executes 4 drug smugglers

NICOSIA (R) — Four drug smugglers were hanged in the southern Iranian provincial capital of Zahedan, the Iranian News Agency IRNA said Sunday. IRNA said the four, executed Saturday, were found guilty of possessing more than 24 kilograms of narcotics, mainly heroin. Iran has executed several thousand narcotics dealers since the 1979 Islamic revolution in a bid to stamp out addiction which afflicts one million of its citizens. The country, with a population of more than 55 million people, is on a major drug-trafficking route from Afghanistan and Pakistan to Europe.

### Floods kill 4 people in Saudi Arabia

DAMMAM, Saudi Arabia (R) — Floods caused by torrential rain swept away a car with 10 people inside in Saudi Arabia, killing at least four of them, a Saudi daily said on Sunday. A Medina newspaper said two children, a woman and a man were killed. The other occupants survived. It gave no further details.

### 'Malta fever' widespread in Iraq

BAGHDAD (AP) — Malta fever, a serious bacterial disease transmitted to humans by domestic animals and their products, is widespread in Iraq and could cause severe damage to the country's livestock, the government-run Baghdad Observer daily said Sunday. The English-language newspaper reported that an international conference on the disease known in medical parlance as Bucellosis, ended recently with a call for urgent action to eradicate the disease. Humans can be infected by drinking unpasteurised milk and dairy products of poorly cooked meat. The paper quoted an unidentified source at the conference as saying the disease has reached epidemic proportions in some areas of Iraq. An outbreak of the disease last summer reportedly killed many people in the north and forced the government to ban the sale of milk products in many parts of the country. The authorities have not issued any figures on how many people were stricken by the disease or how many died. But the Baghdad Observer said a recent survey in villages near the northern city of Mosul showed that 10 per cent of the population carried the virus.

### Thousands rescued from Somalia floods

MOGADISHU (R) — Tens of thousands of people have been evacuated after massive flooding in normally arid southern Somalia, where scores of villages have been submerged or isolated, official and relief sources said Sunday. The official Somali News Agency (SONNA), quoting Agriculture Minister Mohamad Mohammad Uluosow, said Somalia's two main rivers, the Juba and Shebelle, broke their banks in more than 30 places after heavy rain in the neighbouring highlands of Ethiopia. Relief officials told Reuters no one had died in the floods, the most severe in recent history, but tens of thousands of evacuees were without food and shelter. The relief workers said the towns of Gidhar, Belet Huen and Afgoi on the Shebelle River, where thousands of Ethiopian refugees live, were the worst hit. They said they feared water-borne diseases such as cholera could sweep through the refugee population. Uluosow said that much of the 90-kilometre road running north from the capital Mogadishu to Gidhar had been washed away and most communications cut.

### Sudan agrees to urgent Arab summit

CAIRO (R) — Sudan's military ruler Omar Hassan Al Bashir has supported calls for an emergency Arab summit to rally support for Iraq and counter an influx of Soviet Jews into Israel. Bashir spoke to reporters after talks with PLO leader Yasser Arafat who stopped briefly at Khartoum Airport, Egypt's Middle East News Agency (MENA) reported from the Sudanese capital. Bashir, whose military junta survived a coup attempt earlier this week, was quoted as saying the talks "covered the situation in the occupied Arab territories and Israel's oppressive actions against Palestinians there." According to MENA, Arafat said: "The extraordinary Arab summit should take practical measures in

light of developments in the region." The PLO leader had urged Arab heads of state to meet to discuss Soviet Jewish immigration and ways of backing Iraq against what many Arabs see as a hostile Western campaign over its arms industry.

### 12 killed in gas blast in Egypt

CAIRO (AP) — Twelve members of two families have been burned to death when a butane gas cylinder exploded at a cemetery in a village at the southern province of Minya, reports in Sunday early editions of Cairo newspapers said. The reports said the victims were making tea while on a visit to deceased relatives Thursday. It said only one member of one of the families, an 11-year-old boy survived but was hospitalised in critical condition. Many Egyptians visit their dead on the first day of religious feasts in accordance to age-old traditions. Some prefer to spend the whole day at cemeteries. While there, they cook and make tea.

### Tunisian academic detained

TUNIS (R) — A university professor and Islamic activist has been detained after criticising Tunisian President Zine Al Abidine Ibn Ali, the Islamic fundamentalist paper Al Fajr has said. The paper said mathematics Professor Moncef Ibn Salem was detained on Sunday by Interior Ministry premises a week ago after publishing an article in the Algerian fundamentalist movement's paper Al Moudid criticising Ibn Ali. In the article he repeated allegations that some of his colleagues were tortured in custody in Tunisia. Tunisian officials have denied the allegations. Ibn Salem was a member of an Islamic fundamentalist group, many of whose members were arrested for plotting to overthrow President Habib Bourguiba in November 1987. The group of 160 plotters was released without trial last May by President Ibn Ali after he ousted Bourguiba.

### Egypt backs Nigeria after coup attempt

CAIRO (AP) — Egypt's Foreign Minister Esmat Abdal Meguid expressed support Sunday for the West African state of Nigeria and its President Ibrahim Babangida who survived a coup attempt last week. Abdal Meguid said his country was relieved by "the stability in Nigeria after the failed coup attempt. Egypt is keen on seeing security and national unity in that African country under the leadership of President Ibrahim Babangida." Nigeria and Egypt, whose president, Hosni Mubarak, currently chairs the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), traditionally have enjoyed friendly relations. The Nigerian president narrowly escaped an attempt on his life last Monday when rebels attacked his home in a coup attempt that lasted more than 10 hours. Security forces arrested at least 300 people, including soldiers and civilians. The rebels, who took over the national radio station for several hours, accused Babangida of backing a conspiracy by northern Moslems to dominate the largely Christian south.

### Soviet executives to visit Cyprus

NICOSIA (AP) — More than 120 senior Soviet executives will attend a special seminar in Cyprus next month to study Western business methods, the Phileleftheros daily reported Sunday. They will also investigate prospects of setting up joint ventures with Greek Cypriot companies, the top-circulation newspaper said. The seminar is organised jointly by the Cypriot consultancy firm MSCO Ltd and a Soviet organisation, the paper reported. Phileleftheros quoted MSCO boss Mark Shapianis as saying that two earlier seminars were "a great success." He was quoted as saying that "there is a clear need among all the business and state organisations in the Soviet Union for trained executives who will deal with foreign trade." The Cypriot government has an agreement with Moscow to provide technical training and advice on tourism. Cyprus earns more than \$800 million a year in foreign exchange from its booming tourist industry, which last year catered for 1.3 million visitors, mainly Western Europeans.

### Burst pipeline pollutes Cyprus coastline

NICOSIA (AP) — A leak from an underwater pipeline linking an oil tanker to shore installations Sunday polluted more than five kilometres of the coastline near the coastal village of Ziggi. Special anti-pollution teams of the government Fisheries Department rushed to the scene, 48 kilometres south of Nicosia, in an effort to contain the spread of the oil slick. The operation was being supervised by the ministers of commerce and natural resources. The spill affected the coastline by the Vassiliko Industrial Estate, the site of cement and chemical factories. The government is anxious to prevent the slick from affecting tourist beaches on either side of the estate which are thronged by thousands of local and foreign visitors every summer. The spill developed a day after a 3-day conference of Mediterranean ministers adopted an action plan designed to prevent further pollution of their sea and to clean up its environment by the year 2025. Spills and leakages from the hundreds of oil tankers plying through the Mediterranean and the illegal cleaning of their tanks were one of the major pollution hazards discussed during the conference.

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

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## Nicosia Charter signatories pledge to protect environment

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan was among 17 countries within the Mediterranean basin to sign the Nicosia Charter last week, paving the way for greater cooperation among the signatories to protect the environment and to fight pollution, according to Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Abdul Karim Al Dughmi who led Jordan's delegation to the meeting.

The Nicosia Charter endorsed declarations on the protection of the environment earlier approved by the Genoa and Barcelona meetings of 1985 and 1975, stressing the need for the protection of coasts, management of water and the proper disposal of waste and the protection of vegetation and forests," said Dughmi in a statement upon his return to Amman from the April 26-28 meeting.

The Nicosia Charter, he said, calls on the participating nations to adopt strategies that conform to economic and social development in the Mediterranean region and urges them to conduct an assessment of the implementation of national strategies biennially.

Jordan last year embarked on the implementation of a national environment strategy in cooperation with the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources which helped to provide the Kingdom with more than \$300,000 as a grant from the U.S. Agency for International Development.

On April 22, 1990 the Kingdom embarked on a Jordanian environment year during which work will be geared towards safeguarding the environment from pollution.

According to Dughmi, the



Abdul Karim Al Dughmi

Nicosia Charter has defined priorities which included special clauses that call on nations to adopt comprehensive plans for the disposal of industrial and toxic waste, controlling and monitoring the general environment situation, monitoring the coastal regions, increasing the process of exchange of expertise and information related to laws on the environment and transfer of technology, on environmental affairs and the rationalisation of energy resources.

The Nicosia Charter calls on the countries of the Mediterranean region to treat waste water in urban and coastal areas and to define shores that had been exposed to pollution," the minister said.

He said the European Community, the World Bank and the European Investment Bank have all pledged to provide financial assistance to the concerned nations, and named the year 2025 for the implementation of national strategies in the Mediterranean

basis for protection of environment.

An earlier report from Nicosia said that the World Bank and the European Investment Bank would together provide \$1.49 billion to assist the littoral states' effort within the framework of the Nicosia Charter.

Part of the assistance will go toward the establishment of sewage facilities for 25 major Mediterranean coastal cities as called for by the charter.

The littoral states themselves have undertaken to provide such facilities for 75 other smaller coastal towns.

The charter also called for the creation of at least 25 controlled deposit sites to deal with toxic and dangerous wastes by January 1993, according to the report. It added that a consensus had been achieved on the necessity to mobilise all available resources in order to achieve by the year 2025 at the latest, a clear Mediterranean environment compatible with sustainable development.

The European Community, which organised the three-day conference, said it would do everything in its power for the implementation of the Nicosia Charter.

Dughmi was among eight ministers leading their delegations to the three-day meeting which endorsed an agreement to promote cooperation with the European countries and to adopt a unified position at the 1993 environment conference to be held in Brazil.

Representatives from the United Nations Environment Programme were among the delegates attending the meeting in Cyprus.

## King Fahd emphasises strong ties with Jordan

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Sunday received a cable from King Fahd Ben Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia in reply to one he had sent the Saudi monarch upon the end of his visit to Saudi Arabia during which he had performed the Omra (the lesser pilgrimage).

In his reply cable, the Saudi monarch said he was delighted to have received King Hussein and his delegation in Saudi Arabia and the holy places and was pleased to have had meetings to discuss brotherly ties and issues

of concern to the Arab and Islamic World.

"I am pleased to emphasise Saudi Arabia's deep affection to the Jordanian monarch, government and people and hope that the Hashemite Kingdom will achieve further development and progress," said King Fahd in his cable.

The Saudi Monarch also expressed his good wishes on Eid Al Fitr, voicing his hope that the Kingdom will pursue further efforts towards progress under King Hussein's wise leadership.

## Party official slams U.S. Congress' stand

AMMAN (J.T.) — A senior member of the Jordanian People's Democratic Party (JPDP) issued a statement here Sunday denouncing the U.S. Congress's endorsement of Israel's annexation of Jerusalem, making it the United capital of Israel.

Bassam Haddadin, who is also member of the Lower House of Parliament, said in a press statement distributed in Amman that the Congress's decision was a flagrant aggression on the Arab Palestinian people's rights and international legitimacy.

"The Congress's decision exposes United States' false claims that it upholds the causes of democracy, peace and freedom," said Haddadin.

He expressed confidence that the uprising of the Palestinian people in the occupied Arab territories will be maintained with greater determination to achieve

liberation of the Palestinian land and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital.

He said the fate of Jerusalem would not be decided by the Congress but rather by the struggle of the Palestinian people.

In his statement, Haddadin appealed to world parliaments and peace-loving nations to condemn the American decision as a hostile action directed against the rights of the Palestinian people.

Members of the JPDP, including Haddadin, were received in audience by His Majesty King Hussein last week for discussions on the influx of Soviet Jews to Israel and the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The group, which met the King included also Hani Hourani, Saleh Nahhas, Sameh Khalil, Abu Abu Ulla, Majda Al Masri, Ahmad Yousef and Ali Amer.

## Study focuses on Arab cooperation in labour

AMMAN (J.T.) — A study on scopes of cooperation and coordination between Arab countries in the field of labour was conducted by Ministry of Labour Secretary-General Saleh Al Khawasneh, according to a report published Sunday in Al Dustour Arabic daily.

The report said the study aims at finding scopes of cooperation between Arab states which export and import labour in order to rationalise and facilitate the transfer of the labour force between Arab and foreign countries

and utilise it in the best possible manner.

The study deals with several related topics such as labour markets in the Arab countries, the Arab labour immigration, labour policies in Arab countries and the legal framework for Arab cooperation, according to the report.

Khawasneh also dwelt on the economic and social aspects and variables which affect the volume and tendencies of employment and which call for more cooperation between countries in the region, the report added.

## Ministry of Planning draws out socio-economic development plan

AMMAN (Petra) — The main features of the next natural socio-economic development plan were the subject of discussion at various meetings held recently at the Ministry of Planning, according to ministry sources.

The sources said that a special committee, comprising ministry officials had been formed to study the working papers and prepare proposals for the best methods of drawing up the plan.

The committee also discussed the optimal methodology for preparing the plan and means of implementing it and the ideal format for preparing the plan.

It also discussed the technical and administrative requirements for producing the plan document and capitalising on the advanced expertise in formulating economic, financial, monetary and commercial policies.

The sources added that the discussions also dealt with the participation of experts from the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) in the technical preparation for the plan, in implementation of the agreements already concluded among the ACC member states.

The sources added that the discussions also dealt with the participation of experts from the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) in the technical preparation for the plan, in implementation of the agreements already concluded among the ACC member states.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

### THEATRE

★ Children play in Arabic entitled "Al Shahid" (The Witness) at the Royal Cultural Centre — 4:00 p.m.

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## Union to include all Jordanian youth

By Sana Atiyeh  
Special to the Jordan Times

Omran, a member of the preparatory committee.

The establishment of such a union is seen as a precedent for other institutions and organisations to unite their efforts in serving the Jordanian people.

"With the openness in the country, we hope that this union is a beginning for other organisations to become more public and united to include all sectors of society, to achieve more development for everyone," Nizar Kayed, a member of the preparatory committee, told reporters.

Sa'ud Qubailat, Khalid Khader, Nahed Hattar, Khaled and Omran, all members of the preparatory committee, said that the union aims at defending the rights and freedoms of all young Jordanians.

According to Qubailat, a similar union was established in 1974 under the same name, (in which he was the president of the executive committee) and was recognised by the Arab Youth Union (AYU) and the Prague-based International Democratic Youth Union (IDYU). But the previous union was recently dissolved to enable the formation of the new JDYU, which would still remain a member of both the Arab and international unions because of its name.

According to the internal policy of the union, the organisation aims at defending the youth's economic, social, cultural and political rights and providing opportunities to use their ability and talent. The union, described by the organisers as a "popular, nationalist democratic youth organisation," will also include participation in sports and cultural and social activities "in serving what is beneficial for the young."

Through minimum annual membership fees (JD. 3) and donations, the JDYU intends to issue specialised publications, including a regular

magazine, and concentrate on research aiming at solving the problems of the youth and developing the national culture.

The union will open its doors to all Jordanians between the age of 18 and 40 after its conference of establishment, scheduled in the summer. The members of the preparatory committee plan on opening branches in every city in the world where there are more than 30 Jordanian youth residing.

The other objectives of the union are:

— To follow up on the situation of Jordanians abroad and deepen their ties to Jordan by listening to their problems and following their activities within the branches.

— To coordinate with popular, professional and official sectors to develop the "positive morals" of the youth and to increase their commitment to the issues of the people and nation.

— To work toward solving the problems facing the youth, particularly unemployment, leisure, education, marriage.

— To work towards developing a "national education policy and to provide just opportunities for all youth to receive a full education and solve the problems facing students during all phases of education."

— To develop the participation of women in the economic, social, political and cultural life, and abolish all forms of discrimination against them.

— To face the dangers of Zionism/imperialism against Jordan and the Arab Nation."

— To support the Palestinians and the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories until the liberation of the land, "the right of return, self-determination, and the establishment of an independent state on their national soil under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

## Influx of tourists reported over Eid

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Tourism reported an influx of tourists from Jordan and other Arab and Islamic countries at Jordan's tourist and archaeological sites during the past week when the Kingdom observed a holiday marking Eid Al Fitr and the end of the holy month of Ramadan.

A report by the Jordan News Agency, Petra quoted Minister of Tourism Abdul Karim Al Kababiti as saying that the tourist facilities were full to capacity during

the holiday and could not cope with the increasing number of visitors especially in Aqaba and the Nabatean City of Petra in southern Jordan.

Kababiti told Petra the hotels at the two particular sites were booked until the end of June.

"Tourists visiting the Kingdom during the first quarter of 1990 increased by 41 per cent over those coming to the Kingdom during the same period of 1989," Kababiti said. He attributed this

development to the improved and developed tourist facilities in Jordan.

Kababiti said the Jordan Express Tourist and Transport Company (JETT) operated 130 air-conditioned buses to cope with the huge number of people wishing to travel to the various tourist sites during the Eid Al Fitr holiday.

Last year, the minister said, Jordan's overall income from tourism stood at JD 310 million.



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## Time is being lost

MORE than five weeks were wasted when Israeli Labour Party leader Shimon Peres tried to form a government. Now it is Likud leader Yitzhak Shamir's turn to waste more time trying to form a coalition. Meanwhile, the momentum for peace in the Middle East has been effectively lost. There is hardly a word being uttered these days about the Baker formula for peace between Israel and the Palestinians, and before not too long it too will be unceremoniously dumped like all the other previous attempts to make peace in the Middle East. Of course, the massive Jewish immigration to Israel will continue unabated in spite of the vociferous Arab rhetoric, albeit in a more quiet way than before. And when Iraq made a legitimate response to the new dangers and challenges facing the Arab World, all hell broke loose and fury was unleashed against it by the Western World. Against all this, the Arab peoples must be at a loss to comprehend why all this official Arab hesitation to convene a Arab summit except to conclude that they wish to avoid standing up to these dangers and challenges. More than ever it is imperative now for the Arab leaders to get together and hold their much anticipated summit. It is inconceivable that the Arab leaders are waiting for Israeli rockets and nuclear bombs to fall over their heads before they make their collective move. Surely, it is clear to them that that peace process has been dealt a death blow for as long as one can see and the derailment of negotiations between Israel and the Arab side could sooner or later invite war and destruction to the region on a scale hitherto unknown to any of us. There must be something that the Arab countries can do to salvage the situation from utter despair and conflagration. The least that they can do in this vein is to sit down together and decide on something useful and effective for their countries and peoples.

## JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

AL Ra'i daily on Sunday commented on the U.S. administration's display of hostility towards the Arabs in general and the Palestinians in particular. The paper said that following the U.S. Congress's endorsement of Israel's annexation of the city of Jerusalem, the Bush administration has now threatened to cut off all its contributions to the World Health Organisation, should the organisation admit the PLO to its membership. Both actions are part of a long series of American practices that clearly display the United States hatred to the Palestinian people, and both moves serve as part of the U.S. administration's encouragement for Israel to escalate its criminal actions in the occupied Arab lands, said the paper. There is no doubt that this kind of encouragement can result in further bloodshed, and Israeli killing of innocent people as happened on the first day of Eid Al Fitr in the Gaza Strip, the paper added. The paper expressed the view that not only did the U.S. administration show its determination to impede the peace process, but it also proved beyond any doubt that it is an accomplice to aggression against the Arabs and the Palestinians in such a manner that can only endanger world peace. The Arabs, said the paper, should give up any lingering hopes of any prospects for the United States to follow the path of justice in their region, and should be brave enough to develop their own intrinsic force, and together confront the danger represented in the U.S.-Israeli alliance and aggression on the Arab Nation.

Al Dusour daily on Sunday discussed Israel's expansionist policies in the occupied Arab territories and said that, encouraged by the United States, the Zionists are now consolidating their hold on Palestine and increasing their criminal actions against the Arab population. The paper noted in particular Israel's killing of demonstrators in Gaza last Thursday as the Palestinians were celebrating Eid Al Fitr. It said that the killing and the continued repression prove to the world the dimension of the crime being committed against the Arab people in Palestine, and show that Israel was determined to go ahead with plans to step up repression and increase its massacring of the Palestinians. What happened in the Palestinian camp of Jabalia last Thursday, the paper said, is part of a series of massacres committed by the Israelis over the past three years of the uprising, but it bore an indication that the coming months will witness further bloodshed, as Israel seems to be determined to confront the uprising by all means under its disposal.

Sawt Al Shaab daily on Sunday discussed Washington's blackmail exercised against the United Nations, referring in particular to its latest threat of cutting off all U.S. contributions to the World Health Organisation should the latter admit the PLO as member. The paper noted that this was not the first time that Washington resorts to such actions in its dealings with countries of the Third World. The United States had pulled out from UNESCO after failing to impose its will on that organisation, and after the international community stopped Washington from meddling in UNESCO affairs, the paper noted. It said that the U.S. position vis a vis the PLO, although the latter had accepted all conditions for peace, proves that Washington is not oriented towards peace in any form or manner. Furthermore this latest U.S. attitude proves that Washington is indifferent to its own interests in the Arab World and does not give any regard to Arab feelings. Therefore, the paper said, the Arabs have no other alternative but to take a united stand regarding the American position and put an end to Washington's hegemony over the world organisations, and also end all U.S. harmful actions against Arab interests.

## Mideast situation a surrealistic minuet; Jordan's agenda is a cry of conscience

By HRH Crown Prince Hassan

The following article is reprinted in full from the April 28-29 issue of the International Herald Tribune

AMMAN — An unprecedented opportunity exists for Israel to arrive at accommodation with its neighbours and to tackle the festering issues that have haunted our region for generations. Jordan, like other fair-minded Arab states, stands ready to seize the opportunity in a spirit of cooperation and goodwill.

As we enter the 1990s, the longstanding problems concerning Palestine, the occupied territories, Lebanon, the Gulf and economic development in the area seem nowhere near solution. Procedural matters seem to be an obsession with regional officials. The Middle East situation has become a surrealistic minuet.

Meanwhile, the opportunity for a genuinely lasting peace diminishes, and recedes, daily.

An expanding fundamentalist Islamic movement, influential in Muslim societies from Southeast Asia to North Africa, may become active in the Palestinian uprising in the West Bank and Gaza. Unless peace prevails, there will be a different kind of war to contend with. It will be a war not between nation-states but one waged against the nation-state, a war of attrition that aims to reduce national entities to their components.

And the only triumphant residue of such a war would be political and religious fundamentalism — Islamic, Christian and Jewish. The fanatical war, if unchecked, could extend from Cairo to Islamabad and beyond, bringing the ethnic Lebanonisation of our region. Make no mistake: The threat is real.

Jordan believes that for the peace process to succeed, both Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation must offer practical options to their peoples. Jordan is committed to a comprehensive, just and lasting settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict. The most appropriate vehicle for achieving this is an international conference under United Nations auspices.

We cannot afford to wait. The Arabs and Israelis must be induced to talk, and talk now.

The Arab-Israeli conflict has inflicted heavy demographic and economic burdens on Jordan. We have also incurred financial burdens in our efforts to stabilise the situation in the Gulf. Our goal has been to check Iran's quest for hegemony over the region and its vital resources, and to contain the rise of religious fanaticism.

The formulation of moderate policies and practical approaches, based on an Arab consensus, has long been a Jordanian national objective. Today, with few signs that the endemic problems of the region are moving towards an equitable solution, the "Jordanian agenda" has become a cry of conscience.

In the belief that a drastic jolt was needed to make the peace process viable again, King Hussein embarked in July 1988 on a fresh course to renew Palestinian responsibility for the liberation of its own homeland by severing administrative and legal links with the Israeli-occupied West Bank. That decision served to define an identity for Palestinians distinct from Jordan or any other Arab country, and positioned them to conduct international negotiations to secure Palestinian national rights.

Regrettably, Israel has not joined in the spirit of accommodation. Instead, it has chosen to shift attention from the critical issue of peace — this time, to gather all its resources to welcome a new wave of emigration from the Soviet Union. This emigration provides a powerful case for Israeli expansionists to keep the occupied territories as a home for the new arrivals. The result is a threat to all peace initiatives.

Peace in the Middle East will remain elusive as long as Israel denies the existence of the principal aggrieved party in the dispute — the Palestinian people. Successive Israeli prime ministers have tried to deal

with the Palestine question through third parties. For several years Israel toyed with the "Jordanian option," and currently it appears to have appointed Egypt as surrogate.

But it is neither Jordan's nor Egypt's responsibility to participate in this subterfuge. Nor should they, since it would signify their acquiescence to the denial of the Palestinians' fundamental right to national self-determination.

Peace presumes that the other party attempt a comparable transformation of attitudes, values and outlook. That is not the case here. Israel, under Yitzhak Shamir, is intent on squandering its opportunity, by refusing to accept the exchange of land for peace — the only acceptable basis for a just and lasting settlement — as embodied in U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, which call for a withdrawal by foreign forces from the occupied territories, and which also implicitly recognise the existence of Israel as a sovereign state.

Confronted by growing Palestinian moderation, Israel has been engaged in an energetic attempt to frustrate Mr. Shamir's own proposal for elections in the occupied territories. But as Israel continues to deny the right of the PLO to represent the Palestinian people, the real purpose of the Israeli "elections" becomes clear: to drive a wedge between the Palestinian people in the occupied territories and their recognised leaders in the PLO.

The end of traditional Cold War confrontation has altered the strategic importance of the Middle East. While the superpowers must assume greater responsibility in expediting the peace process, Jordan has also advocated the concept of greater regional and interregional economic cooperation. Such cooperation would provide political stability and enhance the peace constituency in the Arab World.

Potential building blocks for this wider cooperation are evolving in the grouping of the Gulf Cooperation Council, or GCC, and the Maghreb states. The oil resources and revenues of GCC member states continue to

be a major factor in the economic growth of the region.

Another building block for wider political and economic cooperation is a relatively new grouping known as the Arab Cooperation Council, or ACC, which consists of Jordan, Egypt, Iraq and North Yemen. Our idea is to think in practical terms about common concerns, such as water, energy, transportation and telecommunications. After all, Israelis and Arabs share a common geography and a common history.

The development of a sophisticated long-term strategy is required. The Palestine question is susceptible to compromise. I believe that it is possible to accommodate both the political requirements of the Palestinians and the resettlement of Soviet Jews.

The United States, the Soviet Union, Europe and the parties concerned in the dispute must work in concert to generate momentum for peace.

Since the Israeli settlements in the occupied territories violate international law, the United States and European nations should predicate their subsidisation of the immigration and resettlement of Soviet Jews on Israel's freezing all settlement activity in the occupied territories. They can do much to ameliorate this difficult situation by increasing annual quotas for Soviet Jews to settle in their own countries.

For our part, Jordan renews its call for an Arab summit meeting to formulate a peace strategy that would safeguard the legitimate rights of the Palestinians and the security and stability of the Arab regional order. We also call for intensified consultations both bilaterally and among regional organisations.

And Jordan wishes to renew its call for an international peace conference under the auspices of the U.N. Security Council. Such a conference will be an appropriate forum to deal with the problem once other methods have been exhausted. We hold out both a challenge and an olive branch to the Israelis. Will they seize the opportunity for a lasting peace?

## Weekly Political Pulse

# Building on solid ground

By Waleed Sadi

WITH the advent of democracy in the four Arab countries that comprise the Arab Cooperation Council, there is an increasing call on the political parties in these countries to play their natural and logical roles in realising the kind of cohesion and unity among their countries. This assessment stems from the growing awareness that no genuine unity between these four states can ever occur by decisions from the top only. Grassroot involvement and support are basic features of any real effort to unite peoples and countries everywhere. and the ACC countries are no different. This phenomenon has been borne out by many historical precedents both ancient and contemporary. When rather than if the Arab leaders of Iraq, Egypt, Yemen and Jordan would involve their democratic processes in achieving the much talked about coordination, cooperation and eventual unity among them must be uppermost on the minds of these leaders and their respective peoples.

The best way to go about realising this desired end is to have the respective parliaments of the respective Arab countries take the initiative in this endeavour. More channels of communication need to be affected between them as a prelude to greater harmony and coordination. Joint sessions of the four Arab countries' parliaments can also go a long way to achieving greater cooperation and coordination.

The next step could take the form of inter-Arab political parties meetings to adopt common strategies and common guidelines. In this vein an ACC political party can be created with a view to concentrating on ACC issues and objectives. Such an all-out Arab party would have chapters in all the four Arab countries. Yet the principal concern in any and all such political parties is the assurances that they enjoy grassroot support and are created by the peoples of the four countries and for their peoples. This route would offer the sure way for realising a truly united ACC from top down and from down up as well. Anything less than that would simply be like building castles in the sand.

## Gorbachev cites Arab rights

(Continued from page 1)

position of the United States.

TASS said Gorbachev and Assad felt that the stand of the current U.S. administration was "even worse" than that of the former Reagan administration.

The sanctions have crippled much of Lithuania's economy, sending shock waves through the other Baltic republics and the surrounding region.

In Latvia, voters in 17 districts were due to go to the polls to fill the last seats in the new parliament.

ernisation of the Syrian Armed Forces — largely supplied by Soviet weaponry.

Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, in a separate meeting with his Syrian counterpart Farouq Al Sharaa, said Israel had not matched the good will shown by Arab states.

Assad turned from Moscow Sunday and an official Syrian statement called the visit a success and said the topics included Soviet help to modernise the Syrian Armed Forces.

## Moscow, Vilnius edge towards compromise

(Continued from page 1)

were set to give an outdoor performance Sunday evening of Beethoven's ninth symphony.

Landsbergis, a music professor, has adopted the piece as an unofficial anthem for the independence drive. The concert was organised after he said he wanted to send it to governments around the world as an appeal.

"Beethoven's symphony represents hope and freedom and victory," said a spokeswoman for the Lithuanian parliament's information bureau.

Cyclists also prepared to stage a mass ride to the parliament building to show their resolve in the face of the Kremlin's blockade of energy supplies which has left motorists stranded and forced lay-offs at many factories.

Moscow is particularly alarmed about three laws passed after March 11. They would exempt Lithuanians from Soviet conscription, prepare to introduce identity cards and take over property claimed by the small pro-Moscow

backing the independence bid. Gorbachev's spokesman said Saturday that Moscow did not insist on Lithuania rescinding its declaration and suggested that a freeze could pave the way for talks.

The centre, Moscow, the president, does not insist on rescinding, denouncing the declaration of independence. What should take place is that they should not insist on its implementation," spokesman Arkady Maslenikov said.

Gorbachev and other senior Soviet officials had previously insisted that the clock had to be turned back to the day before the declaration.

Moscow is particularly alarmed about three laws passed after March 11. They would exempt

Lithuanians from Soviet conscription, prepare to introduce identity cards and take over property claimed by the small pro-Moscow

Communist Party.

It is apparently these measures, not the declaration itself, which Moscow wants suspended.

The sanctions have crippled much of Lithuania's economy, sending shock waves through the other Baltic republics and the surrounding region.

In Latvia, voters in 17 districts were due to go to the polls to fill the last seats in the new parliament.

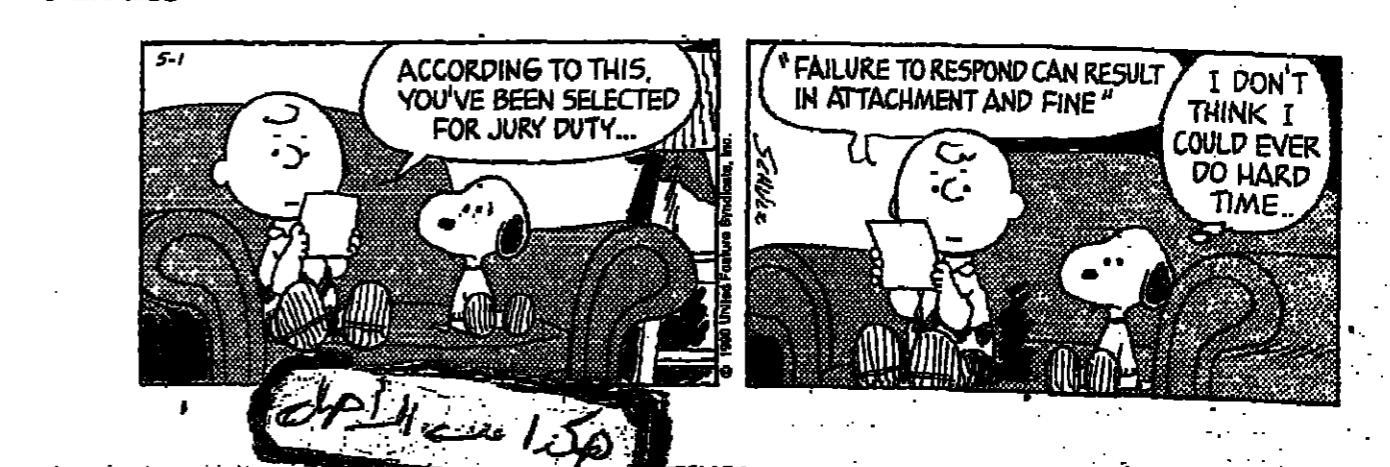
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## New partnership on environment

By Philippa Neave

WASHINGTON, D.C. — "Today, we are depleting the world's biological wealth at an ever-increasing rate, and the loss and degradation of the world's biological resources are taking a toll on the well-being of people in both industrialised and developing nations..." This grim warning appears in a recently published report of the Washington-based World Resources Institute (WRI). The study, which describes the erosion of the planet's plant and animal resources, adds that "an estimated 25 per cent of the world's species present in the mid-1980s may be extinct by the year 2015 or soon thereafter."

Biologists and scientists estimate that only 1.4 million of a potential 30 million species in the world have been identified. The fires and chain-saws that rage through the world's tropical forests, home to over half of all species, are eliminating plants and animals that we don't even know exist.

We have managed so far without these mysterious organisms, so why mourn their loss? There are plenty of reasons to be worried, argues Walter Reid, co-author of the WRI study, titled "Keeping Options Alive," because one cannot replace another. "All species have their niches," says the 33-year-old expert on biodiversity, citing the case of the sea otter indigenous to the cold waters of Alaska. Otters were ruthlessly hunted for their fur and became almost extinct. This caused some fundamental changes in bottom level of the ocean. The sea urchin was the favourite prey of the otter; when it disappeared, there was no other mammal adapted to the area, so sea urchins went wild and started eating all the algae which other organisms fed," Reid explained in a recent interview.

In the way of Nature has planned things, all species, including man, are dependent on each other for survival. Picture a bird with a particular liking for the fruit of a specific tree. It eats the fruit, and in the course of its flight drops the seed, thus introducing the tree over a wide area. Kill the bird by destroying its breeding ground and the tree slowly begins to disappear.

That tree could have provided man with a valuable resource, such as a component for a curative drug. An example cited by Reid is that of the Rosy Periwinkle, a small flower indigenous to Madagascar, an island off the East African coast. "In the compound of its leaves, this plant has the cure for childhood leukemia and Hodgkin's disease. Before the compound was isolated, there was no known cure for leukemia; now the cure rate is up to 80 or 90



Co-author of a study on the depletion of the world's biological wealth, Walter Reid, points to a formerly endangered plant from Madagascar — the Rosy

Periwinkle — used to fight childhood leukemia and Hodgkin's disease (WNL photo)

per cent," he said. Another example is that of the widely available plant called Artemesia Annalis, which may produce a potential cure for malaria. This is particularly valuable because most strains of the malaria virus, which kills one million people every year, have become resistant to quinine, the only other known cure.

Adds Reid: "There is a tree from the Australian rain forest called Castanopsernum. Say this tree has disappeared; would it be a problem? We'd never know, but it turns out it has a compound active against the HIV virus. The virus has been identified as the leading cause of AIDS.

By killing species, we are depriving ourselves of valuable sources of food as well as potentially precious medicines. "Human beings have used about 5,000 species of plants as food, but only 150 or so have entered world commerce," the WRI study points out. A wealth of crops traditionally grown by former civilisations have disappeared. Among them is a grain called amaranth, once cultivated by the Mayans in Mexico. Scientists are now studying ways to reintroduce the grain so that it can be added to the world's food stores. "This is potentially one of the most protein-rich plants around," says Reid.

Undiscovered or forgotten plant species are also valuable because they are the wild relatives of cultivated species and may prove resistant to diseases or pests that plague modern strains

of plants. The resistant genes could be bred into crops. Reid cited another example of a potentially valuable plant, a variety of wild corn found in Mexico. This corn is perennial, so it might be possible to take the genes of this plant and breed them into our annual corn plant. That way you wouldn't have to replant corn every year," he explained.

Rapid ecological degradation around the globe is causing species to disappear at a rate of up to 150 a day. We are not just "borrowing from the future," as the WRI study says, we are stealing from it, because we are not going to be able to give back what we have taken.

Reid insists that the process is happening so fast that immediate wide-ranging action must be taken. "Speed up the process of keying out species and identifying new ones as quickly as possible. Put them in seed banks and zoos," he stresses. Although zoos, seed banks, botanical gardens and other protective measures can help save some of the world's biodiversity, ultimately the causes of environmental damage must be addressed.

Governments and institutions are increasingly aware that ecological degradation has become a direct threat to economic development. The World Bank, for example, now attaches protective environmental conditions to loans that it makes for projects such as dams, roads and coal-fired power stations. Jeremy Warford, senior adviser in the World Bank's environment department, explains the bank's major policy shift: "What we have done in the past is that we haven't really focused on the underlying causes of environmental degradation; all we've been worrying about is our projects."

Warford, 51, is responsible for a training programme for all economists in the World Bank on environment issues. In an interview at the bank headquarters in Washington, D.C., he stressed that the world's top policymakers are going to have to get involved. "The environment... has to become integral to the thinking of policymakers and people working in the ministries of finance, planning and economics," Warford said. "The tools of economics are critically important if we want to bring about change. Economic

instruments have a massive impact on the way people behave, and therefore on the way they use resources."

Experts are now convinced that the key to enlisting the public's help is to persuade people that it is in their economic interest to do so. Reid cited the example of Rwanda, an African country that has learned to exploit nature without harming it. "Tourism is now one of the country's top currency earners. People are being charged something like \$150 an hour to go and view gorillas," he noted.

By World Bank estimates, the world's population will reach 6.2 billion by the year 2000 — almost double what it was in 1965. Population pressure is one of the foremost concerns of environmentalists, who fear that unless there is a significant change in environment management, the earth's capacity to sustain that many people will be greatly reduced.

On the positive side, international cooperation is taking shape: A new project launched under the aegis of the World Bank, the World Resources Institute, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources may bring some solace. The WRI study, co-authored by Reid and Dr. Kenton Miller of WRI and subtitled "The Scientific Basis for Conserving Biodiversity," is the cornerstone of a planned international campaign aimed at halting the destruction of species. The two-year project, called Biodiversity Strategy, will involve governments and private groups and will call on experts from the fields of economics, law, politics and sociology as well as biology.

Reid explained it as a three-pronged approach: "Save it, study it and use it." "The way to deal with a lot of ecological problems is to enable people to make a living and develop in a sustainable sense," he concludes. "You can't just put barbed-wire fences around national parks. What we want is to get nature and people to be mutually reinforcing. In some cases, it involves working with people rather than working with nature. Conservation is managing people" — World News Link Inc.

## The regreening of Vietnam

By Carmen Miranda

WHILE the destruction of tropical forests continues unabated throughout the world, Vietnam is busy planting millions of trees and attempting to recuperate land from the ravages of 30 years of anti-colonial and civil war.

LONDON: Fifteen years after the end of the Vietnam war, the Vietnamese government and people are engaged in a vast effort to re-green a countryside torn and wasted by 30 years of constant strife.

Nearly two million people died during the 10-year U.S.-Vietnam war. But the natural environment was also a victim. The country was sprayed with 72 million litres (15.8 million gallons) of herbicides and endured 13 million tonnes of bombs which created a staggering 25 million craters, apart from other environmental damage.

As the country rebuilt its bombed-out hospitals, schools, bridges, dykes and homes, it lost even more forest cover than during the war — cutting down twice as much forest land annually as it was planting.

Until recently, that is. Now a national committee consisting of 300 scientists is charged with the task of re-greening Vietnam. Dr Vo Quy, a leading Vietnamese environmentalist quoted in a book published this month — "Month of Pure Light: The Regreening of Vietnam" by Elizabeth Kemf — declares this effort the greatest challenge facing the country since reunification in 1975.

Current replanting, heroic though it is, does not yet keep pace with an annual forest loss of 200,000 hectares (494,000 acres). This is because Vietnam's efforts continue to be hampered by economic problems and the legacy of the war: unexploded mines and bombs are still a serious danger to farmers, foresters and field scientists.

tists; tonnes of military debris still a serious danger to farmers, foresters and field scientists; tonnes of military debris still clutter vast tracts of arable land, and pernicious grass, dubbed "American grass" by the Vietnamese, has taken over millions of hectares of ruined forest and agricultural land.

Huge areas are still laid bare to the elements in a tropical country once covered in moist forest. Hills are still cracked wide open and heavy rains hurtle down through trenches now 10 to 15 metres wide, frustrating the efforts of planting teams to reforest the hillsides, even with obliging eucalyptus.

"In many areas, the earth has become as hard as brick, so we have to drive tanks over the ground to break up the soil," says Dr. Ha, director of Vietnam's Forestry and Planning Institute.

"Lack of manpower in the outlying regions is one of the greatest problems we have to overcome," he says. "We have to mobilise people from other regions and encourage them to settle in areas which need reafforestation. We cannot just plant trees and leave them. People must care for them to help them survive."

To put the country back on a sound ecological footing, the Vietnamese will have to increase the present 19 per cent of forest cover to 50 per cent by the end of the century, a process under way.

"I found that millions of trees had been planted," says Kemf. "In 1987, a record 500 million trees, representing 160,000 hectares (395,000 acres) were planted in a single year.

## Television for the 'Valley of Uninformed'

By Claus Korff

COLOGNE (DaD) — West German TV, the ARD and ZDF channels, is extremely popular in the GDR. Stations receive mailbags full of viewers' letters from the GDR every day asking them to boost transmissions so they can be seen all over East Germany. Since power changed hands in East Berlin, GDR TV's news coverage has grown less ideologically motivated and is seen by more viewers, but people in the GDR are keen not to miss out on programmes from the West, which have always been more informative and been felt to be more credible.

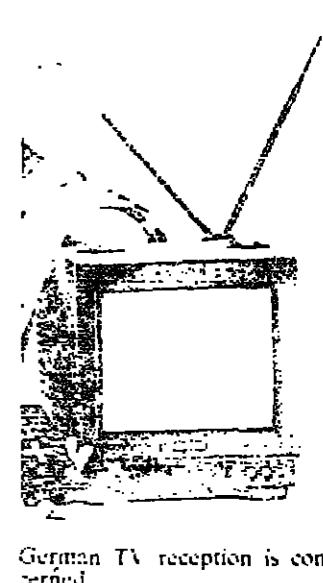
Tuning in to West German TV is no longer forbidden, but practical problems still arise. Reception is fine within 80 to

100 kilometres of the intra-German border. Most aerials in this part of the GDR are pointed west. But people who live further east need a dish antenna, which can cost up to 25,000 East German marks and is too expensive for most people in the GDR. In the Dresden area, in the Oberlausitz and in north-east Mecklenburg even a dish antenna is not enough. Reception is nil, and East Germans refer to people in these areas as being from the "Valley of the Uninformed" because they are unable to tune in to West German TV at first hand.

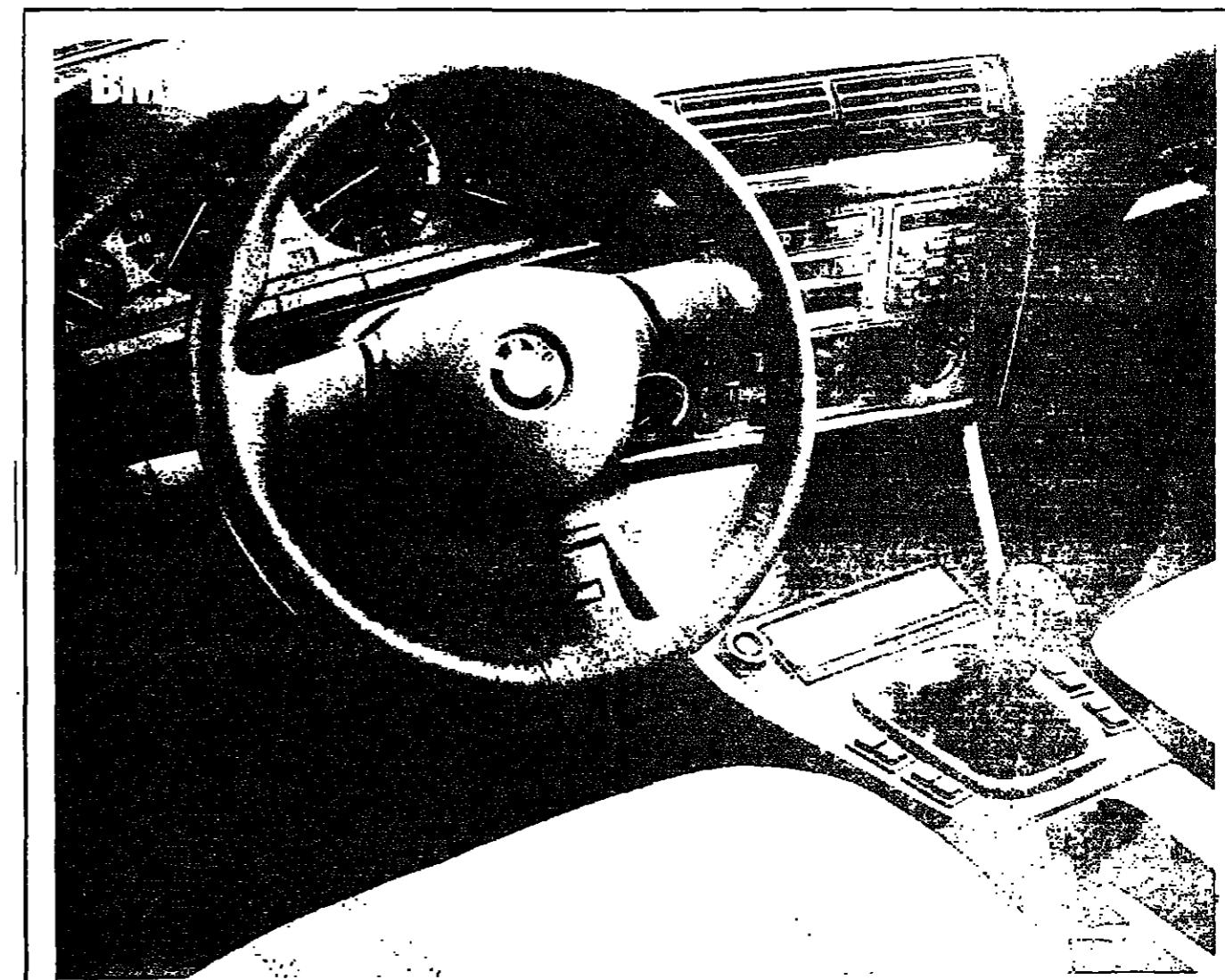
ARD and ZDF are keen to remedy this situation, and Telekom, the Bundespost's telecom services division, has the facilities. The range of transmissions can be extended via two new channels on the TV Sat 2 and

Kopernikus satellites. But satellite relay facilities are expensive: the TV Sat 2 channel costs DM17.3 million, its Kopernikus counterpart DM12 million a year. ARD and ZDF tend to clamour for higher licence fees when extra costs of this kind arise; viewers are understandably lacking enthusiasm.

A commission comprising the heads of government of the Länder, the heads of the various TV channels and the management of Telekom must now opt for one of these solutions. A third, temporary option proposed by the Bundespost consists of directional radio from Berlin to booster and relay stations in Dresden and other parts of the GDR that have so far been "on the far side of the Moon" where West



German TV reception is concerned.



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Italian soccer:

## Napoli takes league title

ROME (R) — Napoli took the Italian League title Sunday with a 1-0 win over Lazio and the southern Italian city erupted in celebration.

A seventh-minute Marco Baroni goal on the last day of the first division championship gave Napoli their second league title in four years.

Valiant AC Milan, ousted from the top of the table last week, scored four goals in 10 minutes in the second half of their match against Bari.

But their 4-0 win was not enough to close the point gap opened up by a resurgent Napoli.

The packed 85,000-capacity Naples stadium exploded in deafening cheers, drumbeats and fireworks as Diego Maradona's men, looking every inch a championship-winning side, dominated the match.

Maradona, looking slimmer than he has for years after shedding eight kilos in preparation for the World Cup finals in June, was the driving force of the team.

Napoli needed only to draw against middle-of-the-table Lazio to be sure of repeating their victory of 1987 when Maradona led the club to the first league title in their 60-year history.

## Sanchez defeats Cueto

BARCELONA (AP) — Arantxa Sanchez Vicario of Spain settled down after a shaky second-set start to defeat West German Isabel Cueto 6-4, 6-2 Sunday and log a hometown victory in the 5th Spanish women's international tennis championships.

Sanchez, the top seed in the \$150,000 tournament, held serve throughout the first set but faltered early in the second, ceding back-to-back breaks to Cueto, who qualified for the final with an upset over American Mary Jo Fernandez.

But Cueto, who appeared to hurt her left thigh early in the second set, failed to hold her serve even once, and double-faulted at break point to go down 2-3.

After that, Sanchez Vicario staved off her play, holding serve to go up 4-2, then holding again to win the set and match on the clay courts of the Royal Tennis Club.

Sanchez Vicario, a Barcelona native and one of the world's premier clay court players, earned \$27,000 for her triumph. Cueto was to take home \$13,500.

## Cash wins Hong Kong singles, doubles titles

HONG KONG (AP) — Australian Pat Cash defeated Alex Antonitsch of Austria 6-3, 6-4 Sunday in the final of the \$210,000 Salem Hong Kong Tennis Open, winning his first tournament since an injury sidelined him eight months ago.

Cash fired nine aces in the one-hour, 20-minute match and scored repeatedly with strong attacks at the net that often left Antonitsch stranded on the wrong side of the court.

"To win here was beyond my expectations," said Cash, a wild card entry in the tournament. He collected \$26,000 first prize money.

"He served well and returned well," said Antonitsch, who defeated Cash in the final of last week's Korean Open.

"I am disappointed to lose," said the 62nd-ranked Austrian, adding that he also was "disappointed I could not give the spectators a better final."

Later, Cash teamed with compatriot Wally Masur for a 6-3, 6-3 victory over Americans Kevin Curren and Jocelyn Rive for the doubles crown.

### GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNAH HIRSCH  
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#### WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you hold:  
♦K54 ♦6 ♦AQ1052 ♦K373 Partner opens the bidding with one heart. What do you respond?

Q.2—East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:  
♦K33 ♦A8763 ♦A ♦K732 The bidding has proceeded:  
South West North East 1 ♦ Pass 1 ♦ Pass ? What do you bid now?

Q.3—East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:  
♦AQ8754 ♦Q54 ♦94 ♦2 In first seat, what action do you take?

Q.4—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:  
♦AQ8754 ♦Q54 ♦94 ♦2 In first seat, what action do you take?

Q.5—As South, vulnerable, you hold:  
♦8432 ♦A5 ♦AQ10 ♦J652 Partner opens the bidding with one spade. What do you respond?

Q.6—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:  
♦AJS4 ♦AKQ62 ♦Void ♦KJ75 Partner opens the bidding with one diamond. What do you respond?

Look for answers on Monday.

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**Nabila Obaid in**  
**THE DANCER &**  
**THE POLITICIAN**  
(Arabic)

Performances: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

## Chesnokov wins Monte Carlo tournament

MONTE CARLO, Monaco (AP) — Andrei Chesnokov of the Soviet Union used timely rushes to the net to beat Austria's Thomas Muster, 7-5, 6-3, 6-3 Sunday and win \$1 million Monte Carlo Open tennis tournament.

Chesnokov won \$125,000 and Muster \$65,000, the biggest paychecks of their careers. The 24-year-old Chesnokov previously had won four titles, including one on the French Riviera last year in Nice.

The match started much the same way as Chesnokov's semi-final battle with Spain's Emilio Sanchez — a slugfest from the baseline.

The two made rare rushes to the net, splitting the first 10 games. Then as he did in the final set tiebreaker against Sanchez, Chesnokov's made more ventures to the net forcing his opponent into errors.

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English soccer:

## Forest shatters Oldham's dream of cup glory

By Alan Baldwin  
Reuter

LONDON — Holders Nottingham Forest shattered second division Oldham's dream of English Football League Cup glory Sunday with a well-deserved second half goal from 20-year-old striker Nigel Jemson which decided the final.

Oldham, making their first Wembley appearance in their 93-year history, had their share of chances but failed to convert their undoubted skills into goals and lost 1-0.

After a first half marked by strong defensive work by both teams, Jemson gave Forest their second consecutive win with the lone goal in the 48th minute.

Nigel Clough, son of Forest manager Brian, sent Jemson weaving through the area with a beautiful pass that split the Oldham defence in two.

Minutes after the goal, the Oldham goalkeeper was under fire again as a transformed Forest moved up a gear and burst forward in search of a second.

Rhodes dived for the ball on the edge of the area, bringing down Jemson, but appeals for a penalty were ignored in favour of a free-kick right on the line.

NBA roundup:

## Celtics, Pistons win playoff games

record by shooting 67 per cent from the field, topping the Los Angeles Lakers 120-117 with 1:13 left. But a basket by David Wingate and a three by Terry Cummings in the final minute put the game out of reach.

"It was like a tidal wave," said Kevin McHale, who led Boston with 31 points.

Patrick Ewing, who had 28 points for the Knicks, said the Celtics "had it all clicking. They hit all the tough shots and made all the right plays."

Detroit broke open a game that was tied at halftime with a 26-9 spurt in the third period. The Pacers pulled within seven points several times in the fourth quarter, but Laimbeer, who finished with 22 points and 11 rebounds, and Isiah Thomas kept the Pistons safely in front.

Boston's point total Saturday broke the playoff record of 156 by Milwaukee against Philadelphia in 1970. The 285 points by both teams matched the postseason mark set in San Antonio's 152-133 win over Denver in 1983. The Celtics set another playoff



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## Anti-apartheid priest wounded by letter bomb

### ANC accused of 'appeasement'

HARARE — (AP) — A white priest known as a longtime African National Congress (ANC) activist was critically wounded in a letter bomb explosion at his Harare home, church officials said Sunday.

The Rev. Michael Lapsley, a New Zealand-born Anglican priest, lost both hands in the blast late Saturday and was under intensive care in a hospital, a church spokesman said.

Lapsley opened the letter bomb at his rented house in central Harare. There were unconfirmed reports a second person was injured in the explosion.

The church spokesman, speaking on condition of anonymity, described Lapsley as an active ANC member who was reportedly on a South African "hit list" of exiled opponents.

"We are assuming South Africa is involved," he said.

In the past, the priest had received death threats from white South African extremists, and for the last three years he had been under police protection in Harare, the spokesman said.

Police refused to comment Sunday, and there was no immediate reaction from the Zimbabwean government.

Lapsley, in his early 40s, was

expelled from South Africa in the late 1970s because of militant activities against South Africa's apartheid racial system.

He settled in Zimbabwe and frequently travelled to the ANC's headquarters-in-exile in Lusaka, the capital of neighbouring Zambia.

Associates said Lapsley officiated at the funerals of several ANC sympathisers killed in bombing and sabotage attacks in black-governed nations neighbouring South Africa.

The last bombing directed at the ANC in Zimbabwe was in January 1983, when one man died in a car bomb blast outside a house occupied by ANC exiles in the city of Bulawayo.

The incident Saturday is also the first bombing directed at exile ANC members since the organisation was legalised in South Africa as part of political reforms announced Feb. 2 by President F.W. de Klerk.

The letter bombing came just days before ANC leaders, headed by Nelson Mandela, are scheduled to meet with de Klerk for talks in Cape Town aimed at removing obstacles to constitutional negotiations. The talks are scheduled to begin May 2.

Meanwhile, a rift among black groups appears to be widening on the eve of groundbreaking talks between the ANC and de Klerk's government.

The discussions, scheduled for Wednesday through Friday, are designed to clear the way for negotiations on a new constitution that would include blacks.

Both groups favour a one-man,

Masemola, who died in a car crash two weeks ago, was freed in October from a life prison term after serving 27 years for sabotage.

The Pan Africanists Congress broke away from African National Congress in the 1950s and disagrees with the ANC on several tactical issues.

The Pan Africanists believe blacks should be self-reliant in their struggle for political rights, while the ANC embraces a multi-racial approach.

Both groups favour a one-man,

one-vote system and wage largely ineffective guerrilla campaigns.

The ANC also is engaged in a power struggle in the southeastern province of Natal with Inkatha, a relatively conservative Zulu organisation. Fighting between the two sides has claimed 4,000 black lives in the past four years.

In other developments, police said a black policeman and his father were killed by gunmen.

Police said five gunmen broke into the house of 24-year-old Constable J.F. Zuma in Mpumalanga outside Durban Friday night, demanded ammunition, then shot him twice in the chest.

Charge and countercharge from the two capitals have fuelled fears of a fourth Indo-Pakistan war.

Seth said his statement was a response to a Yaqub Khan news conference in New York after the talks in which he accused India of "unspeakable crimes" in its efforts to crush the Kashmir revolt.

The Pakistani official said Yaqub Khan had shown great restraint and was doing nothing more than restating Pakistan's position that Kashmir is a disputed territory whose people should be given a chance to choose their own future.

"I believe we will soon be

seeing liberty and independence in Cuba," said Jorge Mas Canosa, chairman of the Cuban-American National Foundation and an early supporter of the 5-year-old Radio Marti programme.

Canosa said the rally and speech was the first event broadcast live to Cuba via Radio Marti.

Foundation spokeswoman Marilyn Kalusin said Reagan spoke free of charge.

Reagan praised both Radio Marti and the new TV Marti network as instrumental in building grassroots opposition to Castro.

"This is an authentic break-

through in U.S. information

programmes because it is television

that hold such promise and

potential: The power of pictures, the visual images of freedom that are sweeping the world," said Reagan.

"They will see the Berlin Wall

coming down, the last speech of

Romania's dictator, the Soviet

citizens massing by the thousands

in front of the Kremlin in support

of broader democracy in the

Soviet Union."

The Cuban government has

jammed the TV Marti signal since

its first broadcast on March 27.

Earlier this month, Radio Marti

was also jammed for first time

since it went on the air. Both the

radio and television stations are

named after 19th century Cuban

independence hero Jose Marti.

"One day, your life-saving

message will have reached and

influenced every American," the

president told the crowd.

"And until then, continue to work

for the day when respect for human

life is sacrosanct and beyond

question."

A year ago a march on

Washington by a record 300,000

people who urged the supreme

court not to roll back its 1973

landmark Roe vs. Wade decision

that guaranteed women the right

to choose abortions.

Although the high court last

June upheld a Missouri law to

restrict abortion rights, "pro-

choice" activists have won several

political and legal victories in

other states, including passage in

Connecticut Friday of a bill that

guarantees abortion rights re-

gardless of any supreme court

decision.

Violence isolates Colombian politicians

BOGOTA (R) — Uncontrolled

violence sweeping Colombia is

forcing politicians away from

contact with people and isolating

them behind bullet-proof vests,

bodyguards and armour-plated

cars.

Public appearances by candi-

dates campaigning for Col-

ombia's May 27 presidential elec-

tions, already greatly restricted,

will be cut back still further fol-

lowing the assassination last

Thursday of left-wing candidate

Carlos Pizarro — the third presi-

dential aspirant killed in eight

months.

Authorities blame powerful

cocaine barons, who have de-

clared war on the state, for killing

all three candidates. But diplo-

mats say Pizarro could equally

well have been killed by extreme

right-wingers or left-wing

radicals.

"I praise the courage of the

candidates who have gone out

into the public square. But we all

know that the health of democra-

cy and the stability of institutions

depends on the life of the candi-

dates," President Virgilio Barco

said Friday.

Barco announced that candi-

dates would be given expanded

radio and television time to allow

them to explain their policies to

voters with less risk of assassina-

tion.

As part of their war, which has

killed more than 250 people, the

drug barons have targeted politi-

cians and officials who oppose them.

But officials say the traf-

ickers' ultimate aim is to under-

mine democracy and erode pub-

lic confidence in the govern-

ment's anti-drug policy.

Western diplomats say that if

one more presidential candidate

is assassinated the government

could be forced to postpone next

month's elections.

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cocaine barons, who have de-

clared war on the state, for killing

all three candidates. But diplo-

mats say Pizarro could equally

well have been killed by extreme

right-wingers or left-wing

radicals.

With drug-traffickers, right-

wing death squads and leftist

guerrillas on the loose, Colombian

presidential candidates

know their lives are among the

most dangerous jobs on earth. At

public appearances they are escorted

by a squad of anxious body-

guards, guns out and fingers on

the trigger.

Pizarro, a former guerrilla

leader, often wore a bulletproof

vest and was guarded on last

week's flight by a dozen body-

guards including some from his

M-19 Movement and others from

the security police.

But they were of no use when a

21-year-old gunman took out a

submachine gun and fired 13

shots into Pizarro's head a few

minutes after his plane took off

from a Bogota airport. The gun-

man was immediately shot dead.

Opposition Social Conserva-

tive presidential candidate Rodri-

go Lloreda accused the govern-

ment Saturday of bias in its secu-